



MICHAEL SEARS / Sentinel photographer

From the top: Milwaukee firefighters use axes to cut a hole in the roof at 2219 N. Farwell Ave., but they backed away to the edge of the roof a short time later. The fire was blamed on a boy playing with matches, fire officials said.

East side fire damages 3 buildings

A 2-year-old boy playing with matches caused a three-alarm fire at three east side buildings Tuesday, fire officials said.

The blaze was reported at 7:29 p.m. at a building at 2219A N. Farwell Ave., across from the Oriental Landmark III Theaters, Battalion 1 Fire Chief Neil Lipski said.

It quickly spread to an adjacent structure and the second floor of a building on North Farwell Avenue that houses two businesses on the first floor. The stores are Bella Beads and Farwell Shoe Repair.

Lipski said the boy started the fire inside a closet on the building's first floor.

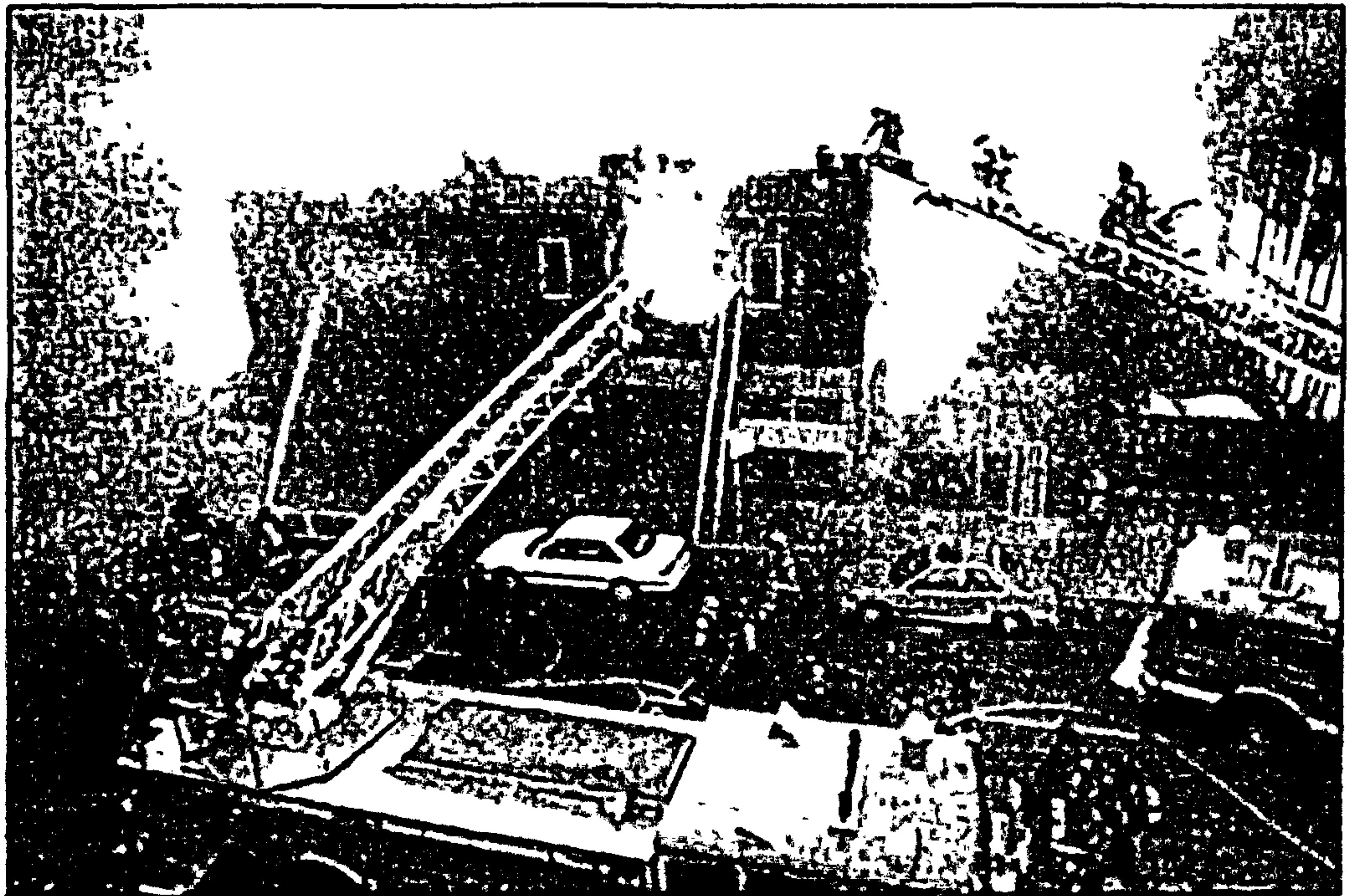
"When we arrived, two structures were fully engulfed in flames and (the fire was) quickly spreading to a third structure," Lipski said.

No injuries were reported from the fire. All residents were safely outside when firefighters arrived, he said. The Red Cross was assisting four residents in finding housing.

"I saw a lot of smoke and heard screaming," said Antonette Liszewski, 14, who was inside the building visiting a friend. "Then I saw this baby, grabbed him and ran outside."

She said the child's parents were in another area of the building when the fire started.

See Fire / 11A



On the scene: Fire equipment surrounds the building at 2219 N. Farwell Ave. where a fire started Tuesday

night. The blaze quickly spread to an adjacent building and the second floor of another nearby building.